

Weare Open Space Committee

Minutes

October 26, 2004

Present were: Pat Myers, Steve Najjar, Andrea Alderman, Paul Koscuizek, Mike and Sandy Boyko, John Ciampi.

Meeting commenced at 8 PM.

BOS Meeting – Pat suggested meeting with the BOS expeditiously in order to take advantage of the new “open slot” opportunity, and to remind the Select board of the OSC, how it came into existence, the work it is currently involved, future plans of land acquisition, and the warrant articles recently voted on by the OSC, and a yet to be voted on “money article” for proposed land acquisition.

Warrant Article #1 - Steve presented an overview to the Committee on a piece of town owned property named Chevy Hill. He described it as rich forest, several small drainages, a parking area, and ostensibly, a sensible parcel to protect. Steve recommends drafting a warrant article to render this parcel as a Town Forest. Steve explained that he feels this is a suitable option because any logging revenue goes into the Forest Maintenance Fund, under jurisdiction of the WCC. Forest Fund monies can be used to purchase conservation land. Paul asked if anyone knows how much money is established in this fund, and to date, it has not been determined. And of mention, the WCC is duly authorized to manage the Town Forest (see Chapter 13 of the NHACC Handbook, 1997). This proposed article shall be worded thus: *“Shall the Town vote to designate as Town Forest 21 adjoining Town owned parcels and undeveloped roadway between aforementioned parcels on Chevy Hill in accordance with RSA 31:110 to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission? Said parcels containing 90 +/- acres are lots 127, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162 on tax map 404”*. Mike made motion to accept wording as written, and Sandy 2nd. All voted in favor to accept, and motion carried.

Warrant Article #2 – *“Shall the Town vote to place into conservation three adjoining Town owned parcels on Dustin Tavern Rd. to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission for open space and natural resource value? Said parcels containing 76.6 +/- acres are lots 226, 228 and 230 on tax map 411”*. Andrea made motion to accept this warrant article as written and Paul 2nd. All voted in favor to accept and motion carried. These warrant articles will be forwarded to the WCC and BOS for final approval. This property is all wetland, has a wealth of habitat, especially waterfowl, and would be low maintenance.

General Discussion – Pat raised the specter of ATV's on Town Forest land, and added they are a nuisance on conservation property but, she added, they are here, and device is necessary to control them. Steve replied that the Commission should deal with this issue more firmly. Mike suggested selling small parcels of

unconnected land and to use the proceeds to purchase larger parcels of higher conservation value. Steve responded that this would be difficult as an operative procedure because all properties have different values and need to be evaluated on a “per parcel” basis.

Minutes of October 6, 2004 – Reviewed by the members of the Committee. Changes proposed are: in the title “Present” and “Guests”, strike the word “included”; in the section “Marget Watkins”, 6th line up from bottom of paragraph, strike “no agriculture”; also on this same line, change the wording “keeping parcels similar for ease in acquiring...”, to read “easement language is similar for ease...”; in the section “next meeting”, change “October 9, 2004” to October 26, 2004”.

Selectman Meeting – Steve suggested that the OSC meet with the BOS on November 1, 2004 concerning the warrant articles, updating them on current activities of the Committee, and to take advantage of the new “open slot” format at BOS meetings. However, Steve continued, this is contingent with connecting up with Tom Carr, otherwise the Committee will meet with the BOS on the 15th.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting is tentatively slated for November 16th, at 7-9 PM. dependent on the appraisal results.

Respectively Submitted as a True Record,

John Ciampi (for Jean Heinemann)

cc: BOS
Town Clerk
Commission Files